



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
St. Paul District

# Information Paper

## Q2. Floodplain Restoration – Root River, MN

### Upper Mississippi River System - Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program

#### Contacts

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#### Location/Description

The program area comprises the Upper Mississippi River System, as defined by Congress in the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (WRDA 1986), which includes the Upper Mississippi River from Minneapolis, Minnesota, to Cairo, Illinois; the Illinois Waterway from Chicago to Grafton, Illinois; and navigable portions of the Minnesota, St. Croix, Black and Kaskaskia Rivers. This multi-use resource supports an extensive navigation system (made up of 1200 miles of 9 foot channel and 37 lock and dam sites), a diverse ecosystem (2.7 million acres of habitat supporting hundreds of fish and wildlife species), floodplain agriculture, recreation and tourism. Based on the recommendation of the recently completed UMR-IWW System Navigation Feasibility Study that examined system needs over the next 50 years, the Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP) was implemented to achieve the dual purposes of UMRS ecosystem restoration and navigation improvements. Floodplain restoration in Pool 8 is one of 23 initial NESP ecological component projects being implemented under this new UMRS program.

Project area is located in Houston County, MN at approximate rivermiles 692 – 695 the Upper Mississippi River (Pool 8).

#### Problem Statement

The straightening and levees constructed along the Root River has disconnected the river from its floodplain. Over the decades, this has had an adverse impact on the abundance of aquatic diversity and sediment deposited in Pool 8 of the UMRS.

#### Current Status

- Draft agreement complete
- Have conducted public meetings for Root River restoration efforts, and received support and suggestions.

#### Future Activities

- Complete PMP and enter design and construction agreement with MN DNR for floodplain restoration.
- Initiate Feasibility & Pre-project Monitoring and Data Accumulation
- Start 2-D modeling of design alternatives
- Coordinate stakeholder meetings outlining alternatives.

#### Information Needs:

- Bathymetric data of Root River
- Floodplain topographic data
- Hydrodynamics (flow velocity and distribution)
- Water quality

#### Authority

Pending new authority, our current activities supporting UMRS navigation and ecosystem improvements are performed under authority provided by Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-611).

#### Fiscal (FY05-07)

Estimated Federal Cost	TBD
Allocation through FY 2005	\$4,329
Allocation for FY 2006	\$50,000
Expected Capability for FY 2007	TBD